Historic, archived document

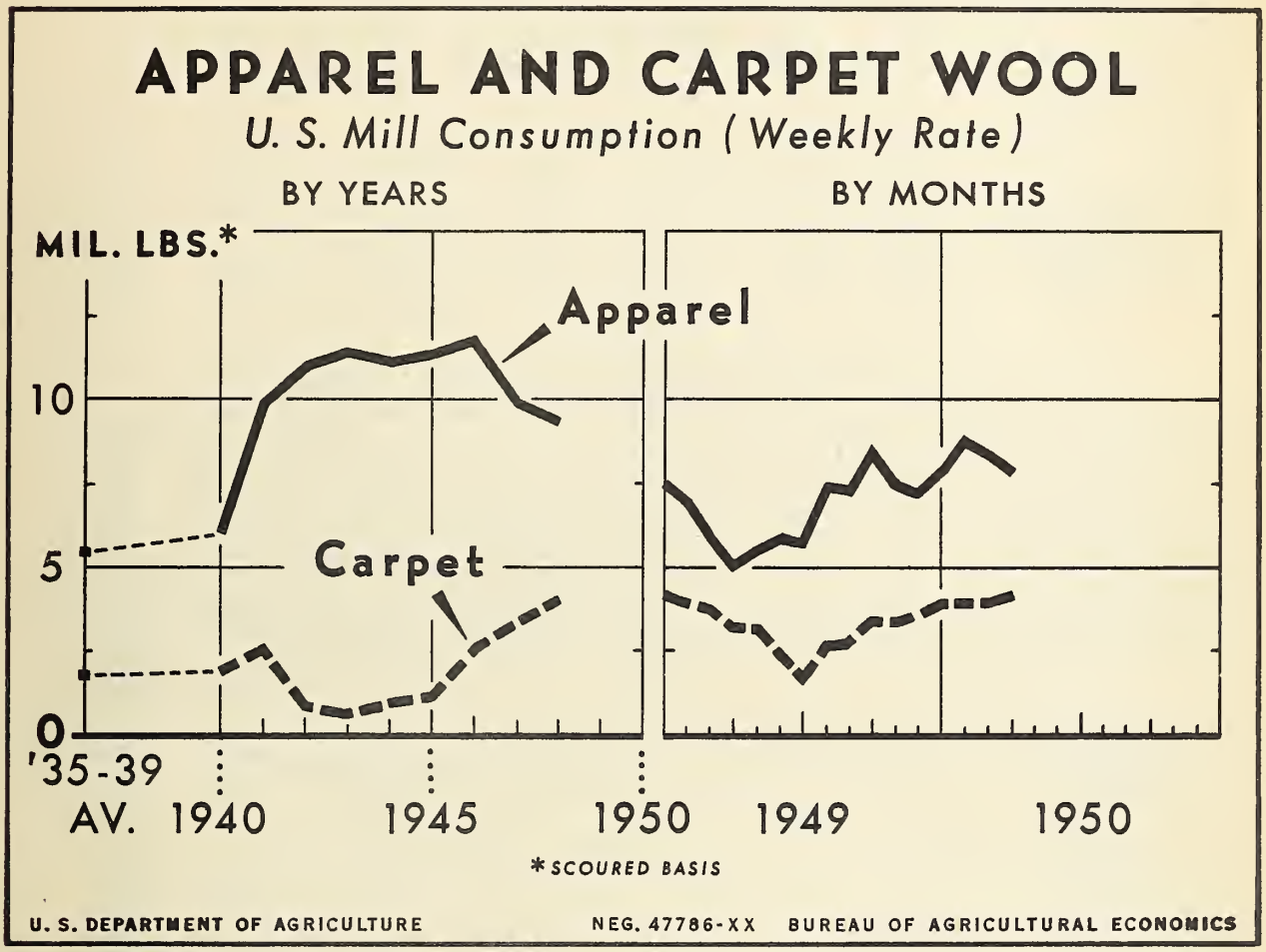
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FOR RELEASE
AUG. 17, P. M.

THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWS-12 BAE JULY 1950



Consumption of apparel wool by domestic mills expanded greatly during the war because of military requirements. When hostilities ended in 1945, military orders were discontinued, but there was only a temporary decline in mill activity and wool consumption as mills shifted to civilian production. The new record level of civilian consumption reached in 1946 reflected a high consumer income, the building up of inventories which has been reduced during the war, and the civilian requirements of the veterans returning to civilian life. Consumption declined after 1946 and reached a postwar low of 5.04 million pounds per week, scoured basis, in April 1949, but has been at a substantially higher rate since then. The average weekly rate for 1950 is expected to be somewhat higher than that of 1949.

Production of floor coverings during the war years was restricted to about 40 percent of the prewar level. With the end of the war in 1945, however, consumption of carpet wool increased sharply and reached a peak in 1948. Consumption declined sharply in 1949, reaching a postwar low of 1.6 million pounds per week, scoured basis, in July 1949, but increased gradually in later months.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Item	Unit	1949 Mar.	1949 Apr.	1949 May	1949 June	1950 Mar.	1950 Apr.	1950 May	1950 June	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Price received by farmers	Cents	52.8	51.3	51.1	49.6	49.6	50.4	53.8	56.2	114
Parity price	Cents	46.7	46.5	46.3	46.1	50.2	50.5	51.1	51.3	111
Farm as percentage of parity	Percent	113	110	110	108	99	100	105	110	
Boston market price: 1/										
Domestic wool										
Territory, scoured basis	Cents									
64s, 70s, 80s, staple	per	180.0	180.0	178.1	172.5	162.5	162.9	169.8	176.0	102
56s, combing	pound	113.5	113.5	113.1	112.0	118.4	120.2	128.5	139.5	125
Bright fleece, grease basis										
64s, 70s, 80s, delaine	do.	72.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	64.0	64.2	67.4	71.0	99
56s, combing	do.	56.0	56.0	55.6	54.5	57.0	56.4	62.0	67.8	124
Foreign wool, excl. duty										
Australian, clean basis										
64s, 70s, top making	do.	192.5	186.2	167.5	167.5	157.5	160.0	171.5	177.5	106
Montevideo, grease basis										
56s (Is)	do.	75.1	74.5	74.5	70.0	68.4	70.0	77.0	79.0	113
50s (IIs)	do.	63.6	63.0	65.0	62.4	61.0	61.0	66.2	71.0	114
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	Cents	32.6	33.0	32.8	32.8	31.9	32.5	32.9	33.8	103
Rayon staple fiber	per									
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	pound	37.0	37.0	36.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	3/	97
Acetate 5 denier	do.	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	3/	100

Consumption and Supplies

		1949 Jan.	1949 Feb.	1949 Mar.	1949 Apr.	1950 Jan.	1950 Feb.	1950 Mar.	1950 Apr. 4/	
Mill consumption										
Per week, during month 5/										
Scoured basis										
Apparel wool, total	1,000 lb.	7,406	6,922	5,822	5,038	7,838	8,671	8,346	7,774	154
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	4,232	3,919	3,715	3,210	3,929	3,931	3,953	4,163	130
Grease basis										
Carpet wool, (duty-free)	do.	6,006	5,414	5,204	4,498	5,337	5,516	5,534	5,829	130
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Scoured basis										
Apparel wools, total	Mil.lb.	29.6	57.3	86.4	106.6	31.4	66.0	107.8	138.9	130
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	16.9	32.6	51.2	64.0	15.7	31.4	51.2	67.9	106
Grease basis										
Carpet wool, (duty-free)	do.	24.0	45.7	71.7	89.7	21.3	43.4	71.1	94.4	105
Imports - actual weight 6/										
Apparel wool (duty-paid)	Mil.lb.	23.8	23.2	17.4	12.4	45.0	37.3	32.9	22.4	181
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	18.1	15.8	13.4	11.9	31.9	36.6	32.7	33.5	282
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Apparel wool (duty-paid	do.	23.8	47.0	64.4	76.8	45.0	82.3	115.2	137.6	179
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	18.1	33.9	47.2	59.1	31.9	68.5	101.1	134.6	228
Imports - clean content 6/										
Apparel wool (duty-paid)	do.	14.5	13.7	10.2	5.9	27.0	22.3	19.3	16.5	280
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	12.1	11.0	8.9	8.1	22.8	25.1	22.0	23.0	284
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Apparel wool (duty-paid	do.	14.5	28.2	38.3	44.2	27.0	49.3	68.5	85.0	192
Carpet wool (duty-free)	do.	12.1	23.0	32.0	40.0	22.8	47.8	69.9	92.9	232
Stocks, end of month 7/										
Apparel wool, grease basis										
CCC stocks	Mil.lb.			107.5				28.5		27
Mill and dealer stocks										
Domestic wool	do.			119.7				114.3		95
Foreign wool	do.			121.0				115.5		95
Total apparel wool	do.			348.2				258.2		74
Carpet wool, grease basis	do.			84.8				75.0		88
Wool fabric production										
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Men's wear	Million			39.4				44.5		113
Women's & children's wear	linear			40.6				40.8		100
Other apparel fabrics	yards			7.5				5.6		75
Total apparel fabrics	do.			87.5				90.9		104
Blankets	do.			5.6				5.3		95
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.			9.1				12.1		133
Total woven fabrics	do.			102.2				108.3		106

Compiled from official sources. 1/ P.M.A. Boston Market Reports. 2/ Average of 10 markets. 3/ Not available. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ The last month of each quarter is a 5 week period, the other months are 4 week periods. 6/ Imports for consumption. 7/ Ending approximately April 1.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 8, 1950

SUMMARY

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool this year reflect the sharp rise in wool prices in foreign markets since last October. The average price received by growers in July 1950 was 57.1 cents per pound, grease basis, the highest since October 1918, 0.9 cents higher than in June, and 8.9 cents higher than a year earlier. Prices received for the year 1950 will average somewhat higher than last year.

Domestic wool prices probably will continue high for some time. World consumption continues to exceed production; domestic wool production in 1950 will be about the same as the record low of last year; domestic mill consumption is likely to be somewhat higher than last year; and the ratio of stocks to the weekly rate of mill consumption is substantially below the 1935-39 level.

Boston prices of domestic wools have continued the general advance which began late in April, and the spreads between fine staple and other wools have continued to narrow. For the week ending August 4, domestic fine staple wools were 3 to 7.5 percent higher than for the week ending June 23; for the other types, price increases ranged up to as much as 23.5 percent for fine Texas fall wools. In general, prices of domestic fine staple wools are now between 4 and 6 percent above the peak levels of early 1949, while prices of other wools are from 7 to 55 percent higher, depending on the type. Compared with last July the increases are even greater. Wool prices during 1949 declined from the end of April until early in October.

Stocks of apparel wool in the United States at the end of the first quarter amounted to 143 million pounds, scoured basis, 56 million pounds or 28 percent below a year earlier. Fifty million pounds of the reduction came from Commodity Credit Corporation holdings. Privately owned stocks on April 1 were equal to about 15.2 weeks of consumption at the first quarter 1950 average weekly rate, compared with the 1935-39 average of 20.8 weeks. All but about 100 thousand pounds of the 17 million pounds held by CCC on April 1 had been sold by August 1.

Domestic mills are consuming apparel wool at a substantially higher rate than last year. During January-May, United States woolen and worsted mills consumed 171 million pounds of apparel wool, scoured basis. This was at an annual rate of about 415 million pounds, compared with the 343 million pounds consumed in 1949. The average weekly rate for January-May was about 34 percent greater than for the same period of 1949.

Imports of apparel wool during January-April amounted to 85 million pounds, clean basis, almost double those of the same period of last year. The higher rate of consumption, lower stocks than at this time last year, and domestic production about the same as the record low of last year have made domestic mills more dependent on foreign sources for their raw wool requirements. At the present rate of consumption, import requirements of apparel wool for calendar year 1950 would be approximately 300 million pounds, assuming no further reduction in stocks.

World production of apparel and carpet wool, during the 1950 season is estimated at 3,890 million pounds, grease basis, about 100 million pounds more than in the 1949 season. Output of both apparel and carpet wool is expected to increase in about the same proportion. Merino wool probably will represent about the same proportion of total production as last year.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Prices Advance in Foreign Markets

World demand for wool has continued strong and prices have continued to advance. At the opening of the July series of London auctions on July 6, prices, in terms of dollars, were about the same as at the close of the May series. However, prices for merino wools averaged about 10 percent higher, and those for crossbred wools about 15 percent higher than at the close of the March series. At the close of the series on July 21, further advances, ranging from 5 to 15 percent, were reported. Advances for crossbred wools averaged somewhat greater than for merinos. Compared with prices at the close of the March series, the advances ranged from 20 to 35 percent for crossbreds and from 15 to 20 percent for merinos. On July 21, 64s/70s good medium fleeces were quoted at $1.98, clean basis, Bradford yield, compared with $1.84 at the opening of the series on July 6, and $1.70 at the close of the March series on March 31. At the close of auctions on April 8, 1949, the price was $2.07.

Auctions in the 3 British Dominions--Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa--are tentatively scheduled to reopen late in August and early in September, when the 1950-51 clips become available. In South American markets, prices have been firm or rising since the season opened last October. Considerable contracting for new clip wool, which will not be shorn until late this fall, has taken place in Argentina and Uruguay.

Prices Advance in Domestic Markets

In general, prices of both domestic and imported wools at Boston have followed the pattern established in foreign markets. At present, prices for all grades and types are considerably higher than at this time last year.

During the week ending May 26, prices of Australian fine wools at Boston advanced about 5 percent, while prices of 58s/60s wools advanced about 10 percent. During that week, Australian 64s/70s good topmaking wool advanced from $1.68 to $1.78, per pound, clean basis, in bond at

Boston, while the price of Australian 58s/60s combing wool increased from $1.38 to $1.53. Price quotations for imported Australian wools have remained at about the same level since then. In January and February of 1949, these wools were quoted at $1.93 and $1.68, respectively.

Prices of domestic wools have continued the general advance which began late in April, and the spreads between fine staple and other types have continued to narrow. For the week ending August 4, territory fine combing (staple) wool was quoted at $1.88, compared with $1.76 for the week ending June 23 and $1.64 late in April. For the week ending August 4, domestic fine staple wools were 3 to 7.5 percent higher than for the week ending June 23; for the other types, price increases ranged up to as much as 23.5 percent for fine Texas fall wools. In general, prices of domestic fine staple wools are now 4 to 6 percent above the peak levels of early 1949, while prices of coarser combing and of all clothing wools are from 7 to 55 percent higher, depending on the type.

Farm Prices Advance

Prices received by growers for shorn wool have reflected the sharp rise in wool prices at Boston since late in April. The average price received by growers in July 1950 was 57.1 cents per pound, grease basis, the highest since October 1918. This compared with 56.2 cents received in June, 53.8 cents in May, and 50.4 cents in April. The average price received in July 1949 was 48.2 cents. Practically all of the 1950 spring clip has been sold by growers. Considerable contracting in advance of shearing took place this spring because of the outlook for higher prices. Some contracting for the Texas fall clip already has taken place.

Prices received for the year 1950 will average somewhat higher than last year. During the last four months, the period of heaviest marketings, prices received have averaged considerably higher than during the same period of last year.

The present strength in domestic wool prices probably will continue for some time. World consumption continues to exceed production; domestic wool production in 1950 will be about the same as the record low of last year; mill consumption is at a rate substantially higher than in 1949; and the ratio of stocks to the weekly rate of consumption is substantially below the 1935-39 level.

Shorn Wool Production Increases

The quantity of wool shorn this year is expected to total 218.2 million pounds, grease basis. This is about 1.3 million pounds more than was shorn last year and is the first increase in shorn wool production since 1942.

Although farmers and ranchers sheared about 1 percent fewer sheep this year than last, the increase in the average weight per fleece was sufficient to raise shorn wool production above 1949. The estimated weight per fleece was 8.15 pounds, the highest since records were started in 1909. The average weight per fleece in 1949 was 8.04 pounds.

Table 1 .- Prices of domestic shorn wools at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 4, 1950, with comparisons

Classification		1949		1950		Week ended August 4, 1950 percentage change from		
		January	July	Week ended June 23	Week ended August 4	January 1949	July 1949	Week ended June 23, 1950
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn								
Territory								
Fine combing (Staple)	(64s and finer)	180.0	160.0	176.0	187.5	4.2	17.2	6.5
Fine French combing	(64s and finer)	162.5	152.5	165.0	182.5	12.3	19.7	10.6
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	135.0	142.5	152.5	162.5	20.4	14.0	6.6
1/2 Blood combing (Staple)	(60s, 62s)	155.0	137.5	158.5	169.0	9.0	22.9	6.6
1/2 Blood French combing	(60s, 62s)	145.0	132.5	145.0	157.5	8.6	18.9	8.6
1/2 Blood clothing	(60s, 62s)	125.0	117.5	132.5	142.5	14.0	21.3	7.5
3/8 Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	113.5	112.0	139.5	152.5	34.4	36.2	9.3
3/8 Blood clothing	(56s, 58s)	95.0	95.0	102.5	122.5	28.9	28.9	19.5
1/4 Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	102.5	98.5	122.5	137.5	34.1	39.6	12.2
Low 1/4 Blood	(46s)	92.5	92.5	97.5	117.5	27.0	27.0	20.5
Common and Braid	(44s and coarser)	87.5	87.5	92.5	112.5	28.6	28.6	21.6
Bright fleece								
Fine combing (Delaine)	(64s and finer)	180.0	165.0	182.5	188.0	4.4	13.9	3.0
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	102.0	102.0	152.5	152.5	49.5	49.5	0
1/2 Blood combing	(60s, 62s)	150.0	150.0	158.5	160.0	6.7	6.7	0.9
3/8 Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	106.0	103.0	127.5	137.5	29.7	33.5	7.8
1/4 Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	98.5	96.0	122.5	128.0	29.9	33.3	4.5
Low 1/4 Blood	(46s)	76.0	76.0	102.5	110.0	44.7	44.7	7.3
Common and Braid	(44s and coarser)	71.0	71.0	97.5	110.0	54.9	54.9	12.8
Semi-Bright fleece								
Fine combing (Staple)	(64s and finer)	134.0	134.0	172.5	177.5	32.5	32.5	2.9
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	102.0	102.0	147.5	152.5	49.5	49.5	3.4
1/2 Blood combing	(60s, 62s)	127.0	127.0	157.5	157.5	24.0	24.0	0
3/8 Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	106.0	103.0	127.5	132.5	25.0	28.6	3.9
1/4 Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	98.5	96.0	122.5	128.0	29.9	33.3	4.5
Low 1/4 Blood	(46s)	76.0	76.0	102.5	107.5	41.4	41.4	4.9
Original bag shorn								
Fine Texas		177.5	165.0	174.5	187.5	5.6	13.6	7.4
12 months		126.5	132.5	157.5	167.5	32.4	26.4	6.3
8 months		116.5	122.5	127.5	157.5	35.2	28.6	23.5
Fall								

Compiled from market reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

In the "native" or "fleece" wool States, shorn wool production is estimated at 57 million pounds, the same as last year. In the 13 Western sheep States (11 Western States, South Dakota, and Texas), shorn wool production is estimated at 161 million pounds, a slight increase over 1949. Shorn wool production in Texas is estimated at 52 million pounds, about the same as a year ago.

Total domestic production of wool (shorn and pulled) for the year 1950, on a scoured basis, probably will be about the same as in 1949, or 111 million pounds.

In the first 5 months of this year, 2 percent fewer lambs and yearlings but 25 percent more mature sheep (mostly ewes) were slaughtered under Federal inspection than a year earlier. Because of this increase in slaughter of ewes, it is possible that sheep numbers will be reduced again in 1950.

Mohair to be Supported at 74.1 Percent of Parity in 1950

The Agriculture Act of 1949 requires that the price of mohair be supported at such level, between 60 and 90 percent of parity, as to establish a proper relationship with the level of support for wool. Price support for 1950 mohair production has been announced at 49.1 cents per pound, farm basis, 74.1 percent of the March 15 parity price of 66.2 cents per pound. On the basis of the relationship of wool and mohair prices to parity during the last 10 years, this is comparable with the wool support level of 90 percent of the March 15 parity or 45.2 cents per pound, grease basis, already announced for the 1949 wool program.

Wool Stocks Decline Sharply

At the end of the first quarter, stocks of apparel wool held by dealers, manufacturers, and the Commodity Credit Corporation totaled 143 million pounds, scoured basis, 56 million pounds or 28 percent below a year earlier. The greater part of the reduction was in Commodity Credit Corporation holdings, which were reduced 50 million pounds. Private holdings of domestic wool were reduced from about 58 to about 55 million pounds and of foreign wool from 75 to 71 million pounds. Privately owned stocks on April 1 were equal to about 15.2 weeks of consumption at the average weekly rate of the first quarter of 1950, compared with the average of 20.8 weeks for 1935-39.

Of the 17 million pounds held by CCC on April 1, all but about 100 thousand pounds had been sold by August 1. No wool has been purchased under the 1950 support program, since open-market prices for domestic wools have been above support levels. Little, if any, wool is expected to be purchased during the remainder of the 1950 marketing season.

At the end of the first quarter, stocks of carpet wool amounted to 55 million pounds, scoured basis, compared with 66 million pounds a year earlier.

Table 2.- Carry-over of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average and 1940-50 1/

Year	Owned by dealers and mills		Owned by United States Government		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks 2/	
	Domestic wool	Foreign wool	CCC (Domestic)	DSO (Foreign)		Privately owned	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number
1935-39 Average	76,588	3/32,587			3/109,175	20.8	20.8
1940	51,006	43,808			94,814	18.3	18.3
1941	44,266	70,316			114,582	12.9	12.9
1942	66,781	4/104,356		113,355	284,492	16.0	26.5
1943	59,962	86,448		168,378	314,788	12.2	26.3
1944	32,455	133,975	83,400	157,746	407,576	14.2	34.8
1945	34,378	153,946	125,600	35,553	349,477	14.7	27.2
1946	36,023	189,455	195,900		421,378	19.6	36.6
1947	51,179	159,649	193,400		404,228	18.1	34.8
1948	76,906	130,281	139,265		346,452	19.8	33.0
1949	57,705	74,872	66,744		199,321	19.9	30.0
1950	55,405	70,882	16,948		143,235	15.2	17.3

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Commodity Credit Corporation, and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.
1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4. 2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption. 3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat. 4/ Excludes 36's, 40's foreign wool.

Domestic Wool Consumption Increases

Domestic mills are consuming apparel wool at a substantially higher rate than last year. During January-May, United States woolen and worsted mills consumed 171 million pounds of apparel wool, scoured basis. This was at an annual rate of about 415 million pounds, about 16 percent higher than the 343 million pounds consumed in 1949. The average weekly rate for January-May was about 34 percent greater than for the same period of 1949, but about 22 percent below that of the same period of 1948. Consumption of 60s and finer wool increased 35 percent over the first 5 months of 1949, while consumption of medium wools (50s up to 60s) increased 26 percent and of the coarser grades (48s and coarser) only 18 percent.

Consumption increased 10 percent on the woolen system and 42 percent on the worsted system. The greater increase on the worsted system reflects a greater increase in the demand for men's and boys' wear than for women's and children's wear.

During January-May, domestic mills consumed 84 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet (duty-free imported) wool. This was at an annual rate of about 200 million pounds, compared with actual consumption of 162 million pounds during 1949. The average weekly rate during January-May was about 10 percent greater than during the same period of 1949.

Mill Output Increases

Production of yarn (other than carpet) on the woolen and worsted systems totaled 232 million pounds during the first five months of 1950, 25 percent above the 185 million pounds consumed in 1949. Production of woolen yarn increased from 120 million pounds to 140 million pounds or 17 percent, while output of worsted yarn increased from 65 million pounds to 92 million pounds or 41 percent. Production of both weaving and knitting yarns on the two systems increased in about the same proportion, output of weaving yarns increasing from 157 to 196 million pounds and of knitting yarns from 27 to 35 million pounds.

During January-May domestic mills produced 83 million pounds of carpet yarn, 9 percent more than during the same period of 1949.

During the first quarter of 1950, production of woven wool fabrics 1/ totaled 108 million finished linear yards, 6 million linear yards, or about 6 percent more than in January-March 1949. Output of woven apparel fabrics amounted to 91 million finished linear yards, an increase of about 4 percent. The quantity of women's and children's wear fabrics produced was about the same as last year. An increase of about 7 percent in men's and boys' wear fabrics more than offset declines of 50 percent in Government orders and 26 percent in unclassified apparel fabrics. Non-apparel fabric production increased 18 percent, an increase of 43 percent in transportation upholstery fabrics more than offsetting a decline of 5 percent in blanketing.

United States Imports Increase

Imports of both apparel and carpet wool are at a substantially higher rate than last year. During the first four months of this year, imports of apparel (dutiable) wool for consumption totaled 85 million pounds, clean basis, almost double a year earlier. The higher rate of consumption, lower stocks than at this time last year, and domestic production about the same as the record low of last year have made domestic mills more dependent on foreign sources for their raw wool requirements.

At the present rate of consumption, import requirements of apparel wool for the year would be approximately 300 million pounds, clean basis, assuming no further reduction in U. S. stocks.

Imports for consumption of duty-free (carpet) wools of 93 million pounds, clean basis, during January-April were more than twice the quantity imported during the same period of 1949. Domestic mills depend on foreign sources for their entire carpet wool requirements.

1/ Fabrics containing by weight 25 percent or more wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool.

Table 3.- Wool, grease basis: Production in specified countries, Averages 1931-35, 1936-40, and 1941-45 annual, 1946-50

Continent and Country	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1946	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/	1950 1/
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
North America								
Canada	17.3	15.6	17.7	16.7	14.1	11.9	9.8	9.0
U. S.	431.1	425.3	428.5	341.8	309.4	280.5	253.4	252.7
Estimated total 2/	458.2	451.7	457.3	369.7	334.7	305.2	273.5	272.2
Europe								
United Kingdom	113.8	110.1	88.6	87.5	71.8	75.0	82.5	85.0
Eire	18.4	17.2	15.9	14.5	13.3	12.2	12.0	13.0
France	36.9	37.1	27.3	26.5	28.6	29.3	32.6	35.0
Spain	68.9	70.0	83.0	79.0	77.0	88.0	72.6	70.0
Portugal	15.8	17.2	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.0	17.0	15.0
Italy	31.0	30.4	27.5	24.7	27.0	30.0	35.3	37.0
Germany	---	31.7	35.5	25.7	25.4	26.8	29.0	27.0
Estimated total 2/ 3/	---	483.4	446.0	400.5	397.1	431.3	443.7	453.6
Soviet Union	---	310.2	279.7	287.2	285.8	304.6	314.9	325.0
Asia								
Iran	38.0	36.3	29.6	29.5	30.0	29.8	24.7	26.0
Iraq	18.5	21.6	21.1	24.2	24.2	32.7	26.7	28.7
Syria	11.1	10.7	11.0	13.3	12.7	12.1	10.0	12.0
Turkey	41.4	67.7	67.9	68.8	71.2	75.5	76.0	78.0
Afghanistan	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	17.0	17.2	18.0
China	90.0	88.0	81.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
India 4/	71.9	72.9	79.0	54.5	54.5	53.0	54.5	55.0
Pakistan	---	---	---	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	30.0
Estimated total 2/	318.1	344.2	336.7	339.6	341.8	354.5	353.1	365.7
South America								
Argentina	361.0	411.0	505.8	515.0	475.0	419.0	420.0	430.0
Brazil	35.0	35.5	37.6	44.8	48.0	45.2	48.5	49.0
Chile	33.8	32.6	36.4	38.6	39.2	41.9	46.3	50.0
Peru	18.4	19.4	17.6	17.6	15.9	17.2	18.7	19.0
Uruguay	110.6	126.2	144.1	176.0	158.7	147.7	154.3	150.0
Estimated total 2/	574.8	638.9	757.4	809.5	754.3	689.0	706.3	715.6
Africa								
Algeria	19.1	22.6	22.6	19.8	13.8	13.2	14.0	19.0
French Morocco	30.7	35.1	39.4	20.0	25.0	28.0	30.0	33.0
Tunisia	11.9	12.0	12.9	11.8	11.0	7.9	8.0	11.0
Union of South Africa	269.5	252.3	234.4	210.0	205.2	219.0	214.0	210.0
Estimated total 2/	343.1	336.8	322.3	274.4	267.8	280.6	277.9	286.4
Oceana								
Australia	1,010.5	1,051.9	1,088.0	976.8	973.0	1,031.0	1,045.5	1,100.1
New Zealand	281.1	313.8	350.4	367.0	362.0	367.0	370.0	375.0
Estimated total 2/	1,291.8	1,365.9	1,438.5	1,353.9	1,335.1	1,398.1	1,415.6	1,475.1
Estimated world total 5/	3,640.0	3,930.0	4,040.0	3,820.0	3,720.0	3,760.0	3,790.0	3,890.0

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes other countries not shown in table.
3/ Excludes U.S.S.R.
4/ Includes Pakistan prior to 1946.
5/ Rounded to tens of millions.
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

World Wool Production to Increase in 1950

World production of apparel and carpet wool for the 1950 season is estimated at 3,890 million pounds, grease basis, compared with 3,790 million pounds in 1949 and an annual average of 3,930 million during 1936-40. Output of both apparel and carpet wool is expected to increase in about the same proportion. The proportion of merino wool in total world production probably will be about the same as during the 1949 season.

World wool production reached a postwar low in 1947 but has increased gradually in later years. Production in the United States in 1949 was 44 percent below that of 1942; production in 1950 will be about the same as in 1949. Production in Canada has been declining since 1945.

Production in Australia, the world's largest producer, is expected to increase for the fifth consecutive year. Production during the 1950 season probably will be about 1,100 million pounds, compared with 1,046 million pounds in 1949 and the 1945 low of 933 million pounds. Output in New Zealand is expected to continue the increase which began in 1948. Because of adverse weather conditions, production in the Union of South Africa probably will be slightly less than last season. The expansion of flocks in Argentina was hindered by bad weather two years ago. Some increase in wool production, particularly fine crossbred, appears likely during the 1950 season, however, as a result of an increase in the number of sheep during the 1949 season. Overstocking of both cattle and sheep in Uruguay has resulted in the export of some sheep to Brazil. As a result, production in Uruguay during the 1950 season is expected to be somewhat less than in the current season. The general rehabilitation of flocks has continued in Europe, where wool production has nearly attained the prewar level.

World Trade in Raw Wool Declined in 1949

World trade in raw wool during 1949 is estimated at approximately 2.4 billion pounds, actual weight, slightly less than in 1948. World trade in raw wool has been declining gradually since 1946, when a peak of 3 billion pounds was reached, and is now less than 100 million pounds above the 1935-39 level.

The volume of exports has been considerably in excess of current production in exporting countries since 1945. This was possible because of the large accumulation of wool produced in these countries during the war. The accumulation, however, has been largely depleted. As of July 1, holdings of British dominion wool by the Joint Organization (United Kingdom

Wool Disposals Limited) amounted to about 150 million pounds, compared with the 3,210 million pounds which that organization took over on July 31, 1945.

Production in the 5 major exporting countries has been estimated at 2.3 billion pounds for the 1950-51 season, about 100 million pounds greater than the 1935-39 average. However, the proportion that will be consumed locally will be greater than prewar. During the prewar period, between 85 and 90 percent of the wool produced in these countries was exported.

Exports from Australia, New Zealand, and Uruguay were larger in 1949 than during the 1935-39 period. Exports from Australia and New Zealand included some Joint Organization wools. Production in both New Zealand and Uruguay was substantially higher than prewar. Exports from the Union of South Africa and Argentina were considerably below the 1935-39 average. The low level of exports from Argentina, where production was slightly higher than prewar, was due largely to the fact that prices, particularly for fine wools, were relatively higher than in other markets. The lower level of production in the Union of South Africa reduced the quantity of wool available for export from that country.

Imports into the United States were about 320 million pounds less than in 1948 but were still almost double the 1935-39 average. Italy, France, and the United Kingdom imported more in 1949 than prewar, while Belgium, Germany, and Japan imported considerably less. Imports by Germany and Japan were considerably above 1948. The other major consuming countries imported only slightly more in 1949 than in 1948.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-TWS-12-8/50-3400
Permit No. 1001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY
SERIAL RECORD